



U.S.S. CORPORAL (SS-346)
FLEET POST OFFICE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK

1462

5750
Ser 78
13 Mar 1963

From: Commanding Officer, USS CORPORAL (SS346)
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP291SH)
Subj: Revision of Ship's History; forwarding of
Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.7
Encl: (1) Ship's History 1962-63

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded in accordance with reference (a).

W. R. Woody
W. R. WOODY
By direction

Copy to:
DEPCOMSUBLANT (Attn: Force Information Officer)

SHIP'S HISTORY 1962-63

CORPORAL entered the Charleston Naval Shipyard in February 1962 to undergo a ten month conversion period from a Guppy II to a Guppy III class submarine. During this period she was placed "in commission, in reserve". This conversion included slicing the CORPORAL in half and adding a fifteen foot section amidships. This lengthening of the hull facilitated the installation of much new and sophisticated electronic and weapon systems equipment. Obsolete equipment was replaced by more modern equipment and other equipment was completely overhauled.

CORPORAL was placed back in "frontline" commission on 20 July 1962 and assigned to Submarine Squadron TWO, based in New London, Connecticut. LCDR Stephen J. O'LEARY, USN, who had been Prospective Commanding Officer during the conversion, resumed command of CORPORAL.

After exhaustive sea trials and tests, CORPORAL departed Charleston Naval Shipyard in December 1962 for duty with Submarine Squadron TWO.

ENCLOSURE (1)

REVISED SHIP'S HISTORY - 19 MARCH 1963

The submarine USS CORPORAL (SS 346) was built by the Electric Boat Company at Groton, Connecticut, under the supervision of Rear Admiral C. E. GILLETTE, United States Navy. The keel was laid on April 27, 1945, and the launching took place on June 10, 1945, only forty-four days later. Commissioning and delivery to the Navy took place on November 9, 1945, at the United States Naval Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut, with Commander Edward Ellis SHELBY the first Commanding Officer.

Commander SHELBY was relieved as Commanding Officer on January 7, 1946, by Commander F. S. HESS, United States Navy, and on the next day CORPORAL departed New London on her shakedown cruise to the Canal Zone, Republic of Panama. Successfully completing this, her first big test, she joined Submarine Squadron FOUR at Key West, Florida.

During 1946 and 1947 CORPORAL served in various anti-submarine exercises in the Key West area and in the February 1947 Fleet Exercises. Returning to Groton, Connecticut, in 1948 she was converted to a GUPPY II class submarine. This conversion entailed the removal of all deck guns, the replacing with newer, more powerful batteries, the installation of the Snorkel System to allow the diesel engines to operate submerged, and the streamlining of the hull.

Following this conversion CORPORAL returned to Key West and continued providing valuable services to our increasingly important anti-submarine forces. From July to October 1952 she saw duty with the SIXTH Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea.

Among the officers whose privilege it was to command CORPORAL from June 1947 to December 1956 were: Commander R. K. MAC LEON, United States Navy, June 1947 to June 1949; Commander E. E. CONRAD, United States Navy, June 1949 to April 1951; Lieutenant Commander J. H. DOLAN, United States Navy, April 1951 to May 1953; Lieutenant Commander H. J. BROWN, United States Navy, May 1953 to January 1955; and Lieutenant Commander E. O. PROCTOR, United States Navy, January 1955 to December 1956.

In December of 1956 Lieutenant Commander Joseph J. SULLIVAN assumed command of CORPORAL for operations off the United Kingdom from January to May of 1957. Returning to Key West CORPORAL provided services to the Fleet Sonar School located there for the remainder of 1957.

The year 1958 was a busy one for CORPORAL. She provided service for OPDEVFOR in the Key West area, underwent repairs to the port propeller shaft at Charleston Naval Shipyard, Charleston, South Carolina, had a battery renewal, visited Havana and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Montego Bay and Kingston, Jamaica, and Port Canaveral, Florida, and in December had a change of command.

The new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander J. M. GREENE, United States Navy, also had a busy ship. In January 1959, CORPORAL proceeded to Fort Lauderdale to provide services to the U. S. Naval Underwater Ordnance Test Facility; she conducted underwater research projects in the month of February for the Judson laboratory of New York.

All is not work, however. March found CORPORAL in Savannah, Georgia, for the festivities of Saint Patrick's Day. In August 1959 the ship was transferred to Charleston, South Carolina.

The following year, 1960, CORPORAL conducted operations off Bermuda, the Virginia Capes, and Jacksonville, Florida. Visits were made to Halifax, Nova Scotia, and New York City.

On October 15, 1960, Lieutenant Commander Stephen J. O'LEARY, United States Navy, assumed command of CORPORAL. In November CORPORAL deployed to European waters, visiting Bremerhaven, Kiel, and Hamburg, Germany, and working with the Federal German Navy in the Baltic and North Seas. Following these operations the ship entered the Mediterranean Sea, spending the Christmas holidays in the Principality of Monaco.

On January 5, 1961, CORPORAL went to sea as part of an operational readiness inspection made by Vice Admiral Elton W. GRENFELL, United States Navy, Commander Submarine Force, U. S. Atlantic Fleet. Also on board for the short cruise were Prince Rainier, Princess Grace and Prince Pierre the father of Prince Rainier.

While in the Mediterranean Sea CORPORAL served with the SIXTH Fleet. Before returning to Charleston, she visited Toulon, France, Barcelona, Spain, and Gibraltar.

During CORPORAL's four-month deployment the following six "firsts" were recorded: she was the first American submarine to operate with the Federal German Navy in German Waters, she was the first American submarine to visit Kiel, Germany, she was the first American submarine to transit the Kiel Canal, she was the first American submarine to visit Hamburg, Germany, she was the first American submarine to visit San Remo, Italy, and she provided Princess Grace of Monaco her first cruise on a submarine.

CORPORAL participated in three major exercises during the year 1961, LANTBEX 1-61, FISHPLAY VI and CONVEX 4-61. On July 20 and 21 dependents cruises were held to familiarize the families of the men aboard with submarine operations and life aboard a "boat". CORPORAL's other deployments that year consisted of type training and services in the Virginia Capes, Charleston and Jacksonville operating areas.

In February 1962 CORPORAL entered the Charleston Naval Shipyard to undergo a ten-month conversion from a GUPPY II to a GUPPY III class submarine. During this period she was placed "in commission, in reserve". This conversion included slicing the ship in half, adding a fifteen foot section amidships and installing a higher, plastic sail over the Conning Tower. The lengthening of the hull facilitated the installation of much new and sophisticated electronic and weapons systems equipment. Obsolete equipment was replaced by more modern equipment and other equipment was completely overhauled.

CORPORAL was placed back in "front line" commission on July 20, 1962 and assigned to Submarine Squadron TWO based in Groton, Connecticut. Lieutenant Commander S. J. O'LEARY, United States Navy, resumed command and after exhaustive sea trials and other tests, CORPORAL departed Charleston, South Carolina, in December 1962 for duty with Submarine Squadron TWO.

Operations in 1963 have included refresher training during January and Operation SPRINGBOARD, the annual Atlantic Fleet anti-submarine exercise held in the Caribbean area, which CORPORAL participated in this February.